

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 1265

By Overbey

A RESOLUTION to congratulate Coach Ken Sparks upon his induction into the Division II College Football Hall of Fame.

WHEREAS, this General Assembly is pleased to specially honor and commend those highly successful coaches who, through unwavering dedication and unflagging commitment to excellence, produce winning teams, successful programs, and tremendous student-athletes who succeed both on the gridiron and in the classroom; and

WHEREAS, one such noteworthy individual is Coach Ken Sparks of Carson-Newman College, who will be inducted into the prestigious Division II College Football Hall of Fame on December 17, 2010, in a special ceremony to be held in Florence, Alabama; and

WHEREAS, with his enshrinement, Coach Sparks will have the distinct honor of joining the first class of coaches to enter the Division II College Football Hall of Fame since its inception in 1999, an honor most fitting for the winningest coach in Division II history; and

WHEREAS, Ken Sparks has built his legendary career as head coach at Carson-Newman College on a commitment to excellence, amassing thirteen South Atlantic Conference championships and twelve NCAA playoff appearances in the last seventeen years, including three appearances in the national championship game; and

WHEREAS, a member of the Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame, Ken Sparks is a past president of the American Football Coaches Association, has been awarded the Gen. Robert R. Neyland Trophy, and named the Fellowship of Christian Athletes National Coach of the Year in 1999, the American Football Coach Division II Coach of the Year in 1999, the Tennessee Sports Writers Association Coach of the Year in 1999, and the South Atlantic Conference Coach of the Year six times; and

WHEREAS, Coach Sparks's overall record of 287 career wins, which includes his wins with Carson-Newman at the NAIA level, ranks him third best among all active collegiate coaches behind only John Gagliardi of St. Johns and Joe Paterno of Penn State; and

WHEREAS, Ken Sparks carries out his coaching duties with the utmost acumen, alacrity, diligence, and character, earning the respect and admiration of his players, colleagues, and the citizens of this State; and

WHEREAS, one of the most respected and esteemed figures in college football competition, Coach Sparks possesses coaching skills and abilities that garner him the admiration of football fans and purists throughout the State of Tennessee and across this great Nation; and

WHEREAS, Coach Ken Sparks has demonstrated a remarkable ability to motivate his players to reach their fullest potential; he exemplifies the unquestionable character and stalwart determination that are characteristic of a true Tennessean, and he should be specially recognized on this most auspicious occasion; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we join with the family, friends, and colleagues of Coach Ken Sparks in congratulating him upon his induction into the Division II College Football Hall of Fame, commend him for his substantial legacy as a football coach, and applaud him for his vaunted level of success and his dedication to excellence.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.